

Those who take them into service are to pay \$25 per head when they receive them, and a monthly hire of \$5 for males and \$4 for females between the ages of eight and fifteen, and of \$6 for males and \$4 for females over fifteen, which payments are to be made for each six months in advance, a provision which seems to be intended to prevent their employers from breaking them down by too severe labor. The number of these Africans is variously estimated at from a thousand to six hundred. Both the Captain-General and the British Consul have taken active measures to collect every African landed. Unless, before the next meeting of Congress, Mr. Buchanan succeed in collecting and setting free the Africans imported by Mr. Lamar's late yachting expedition, he can hardly have the face to repeat the charges contained in his last annual message against the Spanish government for not exerting itself to suppress the slave trade. The vessel which it seems was anonymous, was new, bark-rigged and American built, but her commander and crew were all Spaniards, and they have all been committed to prison at the Havana. Various conjectures are formed about the vessel. According to one account, she was destined for Cuba, but, finding that island too strictly watched, had resolved to try Porto Rico, and from ignorance of the coast, ran on the rocks in the night. According to another account, she was originally destined for Porto Rico, and was purposely run on the rocks, under the idea that the slaves might be smuggled on shore and put out of the reach of the Government, just as the slave-trader Lamar so successfully managed the same thing in Georgia.

The sugar crop of Martinique is set down for last year at 28,000,000 kilograms (about 63,000,000 pounds English), against 25,300,000 kilograms (56,000,000 pounds English) in the preceding year. As both these crops very considerably exceed the average produce of the island twenty years ago, long before Slavery was abolished, there does not seem much ground for the complaint of the scarcity of labor, which is made the excuse for the so-called emigration from the coast of Africa. The number of these emigrants thus far introduced into the island cannot yet have been sufficient to have materially aided in producing the crops above stated.

It would seem as if the planters of the Danish island of St. Croix were about to try their hand at the same sort of immigration. It appears that a French commercial house at Marseilles has proposed to contract for the introduction of 600 or 700 laborers from Africa, and that a public meeting of planters has been held on the subject. The proposition is to bring them in two lots, one during the first half of the present year, and another ten or twelve months later. It is stated that the proposition was eagerly accepted by the planters present, and that some 500 emigrants were subscribed for by them. The importations to the French colonies have been made, as is well known, under the special protection of the Emperor. The ships of M. Reus & Co. have been clothed with a semi-public character, and have thus been protected against interference on the part of the English, Portuguese and Liberians. How is this importation into St. Croix to be made? Are M. Reus & Co. the firm who propose to contract, and, under cover of the Emperor's protection, do they mean to go into a general speculation for supplying all who want? Unless the supply of St. Croix is to be carried on under some such cover, we apprehend that the speculation may be exposed to some interference.

CONNECTICUT holds her State Election one week from to-day. The canvass on the Republican side will be continued this week as follows:

The Hon. HANNIBAL HAMILIS of Maine will speak at Windsor, Hartford Co., on Tuesday, March 29.
At Springfield, Wednesday, March 30.
At Torrington, Thursday, March 31.
At Waterbury, Friday, April 1.
The Hon. HENRY WILSON of Mass. will speak at New-Haven, Friday evening, April 1.
At Durham, Easthampton and East Haddam on previous evenings.
The Hon. GALESTIA A. GROW of Penna. will speak at Middletown, Monday evening, March 28.
At Waterbury, Tuesday, March 29.
At Meriden, Wednesday evening, March 30.
At Wallingford, Thursday evening, March 31.
At Hartford, Friday evening, April 1.
At New-Haven, Saturday evening, April 2.
The Hon. ANSON BURLINGAME of Mass. will speak at Fair-Haven, Monday evening, March 29.
At Chester, Tuesday evening, March 30.
At Guilford, Wednesday evening, March 31.
At Derby, Thursday evening, March 31.
At Naugatuck, Friday evening, April 1.
At New-Haven, Saturday evening, April 2.
CHARLES C. WOODMAN of Boston will speak at Southbury, Tuesday, March 29.
At Plainville, Wednesday, March 30.
At Andover, Thursday afternoon, March 31.
At Simsbury, Thursday evening, March 31.
At Salmon Brook, Friday, April 1.
JOSEPH R. BAWLEY of Hartford will speak at Southbury, Thursday, March 31.
At Farmington, Friday, April 1.
At Colchester, Saturday, April 2.
HORACE GREENE will speak at Greenwich, Monday evening, March 28.
At Danbury, Thursday, March 31.
At Redding, Friday, April 1.

We learn from a gentleman who formerly resided in Palermo, in Sicily, that the police of that city are paid from week to week only one half of their wages. The other half is kept as a reserved fund, out of which all parties suffering loss by theft, burglary and similar crimes, which it is the duty of the police to prevent, are indemnified. There is a statement at the end of every six months, and the surplus is divided among the policemen, who are thus made to suffer a loss of wages by every failure to perform their duty. The system works admirably. Crimes of the sort are almost unknown, and at each settlement there is but little to deduct from the fund before it is distributed. Suppose we were to try this plan in New-York?

BOOKS GOING.—The movement of business up Broadway, towards the centre of the city, is steady, if not very rapid. For a year a considerable number of bookkeepers and others have yielded to the tide. Messrs. Scribner and Messrs. Radd and Carleton, have taken extensive quarters in Brook's building on the corner of Grand street, and the Messrs. are putting up buildings of their own at the head of Howard street, looking down from Mercer upon Broadway. The Westerns & Bellows will soon divide a large store half a mile above their present location. This leaves very few book houses in Broadway below Appleton's, which not many years ago was rather up-town for the book business. Rarely are new or exceptional events southward, as in Putnam taking the agency of the works of Washington Irving and Bayard Taylor from Broadway to Nassau street. Into the building occupied until lately by Sheldon, Bakeman & Co., now by Sheldon & Co., Messrs. Bakeman & Co., having started a new house. Not the least noticeable among the new firms, is the house of S. A. Rollo & Co., which has been launched lately with marked mannerism. The consumption of book paper, which received a marked check in the "crisis" has fully regained its previous figure.

THE LATEST NEWS

RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The contract for carrying the mail from Leavenworth to Corvallis, Pike's Peak region was made under the act of 1855, authorizing the establishment of special Post-Office routes to be sustained from their proceeds, and such is the arrangement in this case, that the compensation is to be paid to the contractor, if the Post-Office Route, bill had passed, and the contract been made under it, this service would have cost \$39,000 or \$40,000 a year. The contractor will be amply compensated for their outlay in the carrying of passengers.

The Boston & Lowell Convention was yesterday considered by the Cabinet. B. H. Postmaster Capen and the parties representing the State's interest had separate interviews with the Postmaster-General to-day.

Commander Bassell has been ordered to the command of the receiving-ship Independence, at the Marine Hospital, New-York, to receive the sick and wounded from the ship "Albatross," which was wrecked off Cape Cod. Col. Do Johnson of the 1st Cavalry, and a relative of Minister Meade, left the city yesterday for Mexico, under orders, it is said, from the Government.

The new steam sloop-of-war Lancaster is to be finished at Litchfield for use with all possible expedition. She will probably be sent to the Pacific.

The Land Office states that Horatia, Minnesota, has been ordered to be removed to Portland, in the same steamer.

Col. Lander will leave Washington on Monday, to resume work on the South Pass wagon road, for the purpose of repairing damages and shortening the route as far as practicable.

The Treasury's weekly statement shows a net balance in the Treasury of over \$7,000,000. The receipts of the week were \$1,815,000.

The President has recognized Francis Augustus Horch as Consul of the Netherlands for Maine, Massachusetts, New-Hampshire and Rhode Island, to reside in Boston.

The Halifax Steamers.
BANGOR, Me., March 27—p. m.
The line east of this point has been down all day, and there is no prospect of a resumption of telegraphic communication to-night. We have no advices from Halifax of a later date than Saturday evening, when the expected steamers, Niagara and Alps, had not arrived.

Indictments in Albany.
ALBANY, March 26, 1859.
On Saturday night a woman named Mary Ann Brice, aged twenty-three years, was killed by Mrs. O'Neil, who was attempting to procure an abortion by means of instruments. The abortionist is a forty-four years of age, and has carried on this business for years without detection. She is now in jail, and will be indicted to-morrow by the Grand Jury, which has been in session for a week, and has already found fifty indictments, making over one hundred indictments in this county since January last.

Accident to the Steamer State of Georgia.
SAVANNAH, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The steamer State of Georgia, hence for Philadelphia, when off St. Helena Sound, the South Carolina, after a collision with the steamer, which disabled her machinery. She reached Charleston in safety, and her passengers have been transferred to the Keynote State.

Explosion of a Steam-Propeller.
CHICAGO, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The Northern Transportation Company's propeller Lady of Lake exploded and sunk half a mile from Pierpont today. The wreck and one of the firemen were killed. The propeller had a full cargo of flour and provisions. There are no further particulars as yet.

Murder of a Baptist Clergyman and his Wife.
HARRIS, Maryland Co., W. Va., March 26, 1859.
The Rev. John A. P. Baptist preacher, and his wife, were killed yesterday by their son. The murderer is about 30 years old, and has been insane for several years, but was thought to be harmless until this occurrence. He made no effort to escape.

The Case of Henry Gambrell, the Murderer.
BALTIMORE, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The Baltimore papers contain a long statement of the friends of Henry Gambrell, one of the convicts now awaiting execution for the murder of Police Officer Benton, giving affidavits of certain parties to show that another party, named Richard Harris, was the perpetrator of the murder, and that he (Harris) confessed the deed to certain parties. It is, however, not deemed worthy of credence, and has all been before the Governor and rejected by him some time back. It is the last desperate dodge to save the life of this wretched criminal.

Norfolk Navy Yard.
NORFOLK, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The new ship-of-war Richmond is to be launched on the 7th of May.

Considerable additions have been made to the brick-laying in the yard, and the immense storehouse for ordnance and provisions is progressing rapidly.

From Havana—Slaves Landed.
SAVANNAH, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The schooner Alice A. Bandell, from Havana 20th inst., reports that a cargo of 600 negroes had been landed at Remedios, Cuba.

Sugars and molasses were firm at Havana. Freight was improving. Exchange was declining.

The Mount Vernon Fund.
BOSTON, March 27, 1859.
The Ball given at the Boston Theatre, March 24th, produced, clear of expenses, a fraction less than \$5,000 which has been paid over in aid of the purchase of Mount Vernon.

Departure of Minister McLane.
NEW-ORLEANS, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
Minister McLane sailed in the steamer Quaker City for Vera Cruz to-morrow morning.

The steamer Tennessee is undergoing repairs.

The New Canadian Tariff.
TORONTO, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The Governor-General gave his assent to the new Tariff of duties on imports, which consequently goes into immediate operation.

Case of United States Marshal Tyler.
DETROIT, Mich., Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The trial of United States Marshal Tyler for killing Capt. Jones of the 10th Cavalry, at Ft. Smith, Ark., last Fall, was concluded this evening by the Jury rendering a verdict of involuntary manslaughter, and recommending the prisoner to mercy.

Sailing of the North Briton.
PORTLAND, Saturday, March 26, 1859.
The steamer North Briton sailed at 3 o'clock this afternoon, for Liverpool.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE
SENATE—ALBANY, March 26, 1859.
BILLS PASSED.
In relation to the duties and salaries of the Clerks of Police Courts of New-York.

To amend the act for the protection of the S. Regis Islands.

To continue the act authorizing the sale of the Arsenal in New-York and Albany.

THE CANAL—For the better improvement of highways in the town of Haverstraw, Rockland County.

MR. DIVEN—To provide the means for support of the Government.

MR. SPINOLA reported the bill to incorporate the New-York Steamboat and Railroad Accident Insurance Company, which was ordered to a third reading.

MR. MILLER reported favorably the bill chartering the New-York Steamboat Company.

The Committee of the Whole considered the bill in relation to Public Health in the city of New-York in Committee of the Whole, and reported progress.

SPECIAL ORDER—CANAL TOLLS.
The concurrent resolution in relation to canal tolls was taken up, heretofore printed, giving the decision of the Legislature as to reducing tolls as to derive the greatest benefit.

MR. A. WHEELER quoted the Constitution to show that it was for the Canal Board to first fix definite rates, then for the Legislature to concur in said rates as the Canal Board have proposed.

MR. MATHER requested that the rate on freight for 1858 be not re-enacted, but that it should be successfully maintained for ten years with the present depth of water; yet with these low rates the Central Railroad, carried from April to December, inclusive, was not able to pay its taxes on the Erie Railroad, to Lake Erie, for \$60,000 tons. And the Erie Canal, but \$7,993 tons. It was necessary that the Canal Board should have the power of so adjusting tolls as to successfully compete with the rail.

MR. LAMONT—It appears by the statement of the Senator from the XXIII (Mr. Prosser) that the rate of tolls on freight in the canal, which required that the action of the Canal Board should be in advance of the action of the Legislature. Such being the case, there was no need of giving the clause this railroad interpretation, and tying up our hands and placing our public works at the disposal of railroads, so far as the rates of tolls are concerned. Should we adopt a rate of toll which was subsequently acquiesced in by the Canal Board, would it be contended that the Constitution was not fully complied with, merely because our action preceded that of the Canal Board? He did not think any fair-minded man could adopt the course of Mr. Prosser.

MR. W. A. WHEELER claimed if the resolution was adopted which provided for a sliding scale of rates for the Canal Board to adopt, it could not be successfully shown that there had ever been a meeting of the minds of the Canal Board and Legislature on the subject.

MR. DIVEN was well satisfied that the learned Senator from the XXIII (Mr. Lamont) had given a construction to this clause of the Constitution it would not bear, and one that would not satisfy that Senator until on a more careful examination of the subject.

The Constitution provided for the concurrence of the Canal Board and the Legislature. The resolution provided for giving the Canal Board power to adjust the rates at any time during the session without the assent or consent of the Legislature.

MR. PRATT moved to table the resolution, and that it be printed. Agreed to.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock Monday morning.

ASSEMBLY.
BILLS PASSED.
To relieve Municipal Corporations from giving security on appeals, and to reduce the costs on judgments in certain cases.

To stay proceedings in claims for damages. For a diversion of the waters of Black River. For a Free Bridge across the Mohawk River.

To release municipal corporations from giving security on appeals in certain cases.

To stay proceedings for the settlement of the claims for the diversion of the waters from the Black River.

For the better protection of the banks of the canals of this State. Lost—24 to 25. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The resolution provided for the completion of the Hicksville and Cold Spring Railroad.

The New-York Tax bill was sent to the first Committee of the Whole.

The Assembly Chamber was given to the Rev. Mr. Halliday for a lecture to-morrow evening in behalf of the American Female Guardian Society.

The House concurred in the Senate's resolution to proceed to elect two Regents to the University on the 29th inst.

Several private bills were passed. Adjourned to Monday 10 a. m.

OUR DISTRICT COURTS.
To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.
SIR: With dismay that I observe the Legislature proposes to add yet another District Court by a subdivision of the Sixth Judicial District, and thereby append a little item of \$10,000 a year to the already pathetic tax levy.

Probably few of your readers are aware of the large emoluments of these Judges of the Ward Courts as compared with the services performed. The salary is \$3,000 a year, and in addition the incumbents quickly absorb some \$2,000 or \$3,000 more in the fees and perquisites arising from dispossession proceedings and other sources.

The services rendered consist in their sitting two days a week, for some three or four hours, with an occasional hour in the mornings of the remaining days. The latter time being occupied with the hearing of dispossession cases.

They have also the privilege of retaining their private professional practice, and it is very easy to understand how frequently this must clash with a proper, impartial exercise of their judicial functions.

Now, Sir, compare this State of things with, say, the salaries and services of the Judges of our Court of Common Pleas. They receive \$5,000 a year; are precluded from private practice; are occupied every day from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., and constantly, on their return to their residences, are compelled to pass their evening in examining cases and preparing abstracts and voluminous opinions. Why, the office of a District Court Judge is a perfect sinecure in comparison with labor and services like these.

The Ward Court Justices are generally so acted from time-serving politicians and hungry office hunters, and only secure their election by the most extravagant outlay of rum and a profuse promise of promises. They know they cannot fulfill them all, but there are other ways and means, easy of imagination, with which they can and must serve their friends.

In the late case of Levine vs. Briggs, in the Common Pleas on appeal from a Justice's judgment, the Court severely and justly censured the practice of one Justice appearing as counsel before another Justice, and also the negotiations and unreasonable terms of adjournment imposed in the case thus appealed.

Shortly afterward, a card appeared in The N. Y. Times to the effect that Justice Charles K. Smith (who was counsel in the Court below, in Levine vs. Briggs) was not in the habit of appearing as counsel before other Justices, or of allowing them to practice in his own Court. The author of this card was conveniently oblivious of the fact that Justice Smith, during the past year, tried, as counsel, some twelve to fifteen cases before his brother Justices, which certainly savors strongly of his being in that bad habit, rather than otherwise.

Appropos of this, I would remark that Mr. E. C. McConnell, of Tammany Hall and Danstreet fame, is the aspirant to the clerkship of Justice Smith's Court, as present held by Mr. E. S. McPherson; and it is pretty well known that the Justice and the aspirant Clerk are sworn friends and boon companions.

Instead of increasing the number of these Courts, the Legislature would show its sense by abolishing them altogether. But if they are to be continued, let us have a bill prohibiting the Justices from private practice, compelling them to hold their Courts at least four days a week, and providing for the payment of the fees received in dispossession cases into the hands of the County Treasurer. If we must be saddled with these one-horse Courts, let us, at all events, take care that they work up to collar mark.

NEW-YORK, March 26, 1859.

SAVAGES IN ST. PETERSBURG.—A party of Samiades from the northern part of the Government of Archangel, lately arrived at St. Petersburg, and set up their tent near the Admiralty ship-yard. They are described as having round and flat faces, almost without a nose, and with little dots of eyes. They like raw meat better than cooked, and all their garments, from the top of their heads to the sole of their feet, are made of reindeer skin. They brought with them a number of reindeer, and have made a good deal of money by driving the reindeer, and especially the children, to their sledges on the ice.

JUDGE EDMONDS ON SPIRITUALISM.

THE SUNDAY OF THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

SIR: I am permitted to address a series of articles to the readers of THE TRIBUNE on the subject of Spiritualism, and I embrace the opportunity.

In doing so, I do not mean to address myself to believers, though they are a pretty formidable band, numbering about five or six millions in this country alone; nor to the five or six millions of professing Christians in our nation, for I am anxious to accord to them the privilege I claim for myself, of enjoying their own opinion without molestation; but I shall address myself to the fifteen or twenty millions of our people who belong to no church, who scarcely possess any religion, but who seem willing or compelled to trust to luck and let the future take care of itself.

To them I will proffer a faith which can relieve their painful doubts as to the future; will dispel the anxiety which, in spite of every effort, will at times intrude upon every mind; will open to their comprehension a view of the future beyond measure attractive to an immortal soul; and, while it may conflict with many of the doctrines taught as the religion of the day, will join upon all who receive it an unvarying life of public work and private virtue.

To do that, I shall aim at two things. One will be to demonstrate the fact that they who once lived on earth and have died, can and do communicate with those yet living; and the other, what it is that they can and do reveal to us through such communication.

To fill this task full would require vastly more room than will be accorded to me in these papers, and I shall therefore be compelled to be very—very brief in my statements—containing myself, of necessity, with affording my readers mainly a guide to assist them in their researches, rather than a full disclosure of all that is known on the topic.

Of course, I shall have to repeat many things I have said at other times, and many not new to some of my readers. Tediums as that may be to me, I cannot well help it, for my object is not to pander to a craving for the novel or the marvelous, but to bring together in one view the vast mass of evidence on the subject now lying in scattered fragments all around us.

I am to bear my own testimony as well as that of others, and therefore I ought, first of all, to show that I am competent to do so.

Am I trustworthy? This paper will be dated on the day I attain the age of sixty years, nearly forty of which have been spent not obscurely, but professionally and politically and judicially before the public, where all could judge of my character for veracity.

Am I easily deceived? Let my private and public career answer.

Am I credulous, particularly on this subject? Let this statement answer for me:

It was in January, 1831, that I first began my investigations, and it was not until April, 1833, that I became a firm and unquestioning believer in the reality of Spiritual Intercourse. During twenty-three months of these twenty-seven, I witnessed several hundred manifestations in various forms. I kept very minute and careful records of many of them. My practice was, whenever I attended a circle, to keep in pencil a memorandum of all that took place, so far as I could, and, as soon as I returned home, to write out a full account of what I had witnessed. I did all this with as much minuteness and particularly as I had ever kept any record of a trial before me in Court. In this way, during that period, I preserved the record of near two hundred interviews, running through some 1,000 pages of manuscript.

I had these interviews with many different mediums and under an infinite variety of circumstances. No two interviews were alike. There was always something new or something different from what had previously occurred. And it very seldom happened that only the same persons were present.

The manifestations were of every known form, physical or mental—sometimes only one, and sometimes both combined.

I resorted to every expedient I could devise to dispel imposture and to guard against deception.

I felt in myself, and saw in others, how exciting was the idea that we were actually communing with the dead; and I labored, as I thought successfully, to prevent any undue bias of my judgment. I was at times critical and captious to an unreasonable extent, and when my belief was challenged, as it was over and over again, I refused to yield except to evidence that would leave no possible room for cavil.

I was severely exacting in my demands, and this would frequently occur: I would go to a circle with some doubt on my mind as to the manifestations of the previous circle, and something would happen aimed directly at that doubt, and completely overawing it, as it seemed, so that I had no longer any reason to doubt. But I would go home and write out carefully my minutes of the evening, cogitate over them then for several days, compare them with my previous records, and finally find some loophole—some possibility that it might have been something else than spiritual influence, and I would go to the next circle with a new doubt and new set of queries.

I was in the habit, on such occasions, when alone by myself, and in preparation for the next circle, of putting on paper every possible question that I could imagine to test the matter.

I saw that the circumstances of the interview often prevented my framing on the spot of the moment questions sufficiently searching, and therefore I took my leisure, when alone in my library with nothing to interrupt the current of thought, to perform that task, and I used often to attend the circle with a series of questions thus deliberately framed, which I carefully concealed from every human being, so that I knew beyond peradventure that no mortal could know what questions I meant to ask, and no mortal could be prepared beforehand to answer them.

I look back, sometimes now with a smile, at the large entry I wasted in devising ways and means to avoid the possibility of deception.

Still, there was the danger of self-deception or mental delusion on my part, and I tried to be equally acute on that point, not merely when at the circle, but alone, in the calm of my hours of study.

It was a remarkable feature of my investigations that every conceivable objection I could raise was first of all met and answered.

Let me take the rappings as a specimen:

When I first heard them, it was in the presence of three females, whose characters were enough of themselves to assure me against any attempt at imposition.

As I entered the room where they were seated together at one side of a table, the rappings came with a hurried, cheerful sound on the floor near where they sat. I took my seat at the opposite side of the table, and listened, with the idea in my mind, "One of them is doing it—perhaps with her feet or hands, but too far from me to be heard."

Directly, the sounds came on the table, and not on the floor, and where their hands could not reach. "It was ventriloquism," I said to myself. I put my hands on the table directly over the sounds, and distinctly felt the vibration, as if a hammer had struck it. "It was machinery," I imagined, and then the sounds moved about the table in different parts, they and the vibration following my hands wherever I put them. At other times, though not on this first occasion, I have turned the table upside down, and examined it so carefully as to know there was no machinery.

Thus I went on, at this time and at other times, testing the rappings in various ways by these questions, and in answer they would sometimes come on the back of my chair, when there was no one behind me; sometimes on my person, when there was no one near enough to touch me; sometimes in a railroad car, when in rapid motion; sometimes high up on a wall beyond the reach of any one; sometimes on a door standing open, when I could see on both sides of it, and so on.

As I was near enough to touch it, sometimes four or five feet distant from any person; sometimes following the person when walking to and fro; sometimes when the medium was immersed in water; sometimes when the feet were held fast; sometimes when they were placed on a feather pillow; sometimes when held from the floor on glass; sometimes when held up from the floor; and sometimes I found, beyond doubt, that they were the sheer fabrication of the medium.

Still, it might be ventriloquism; and so we tested it by jars of quicksilver, so placed that the least vibration of the material on which the sound was made would be apparent. And, finally, after weeks of such trial, as if to dispel all idea in my mind as to its being done by others or by machinery, the rappings came to me alone when I was in bed, when no mortal but myself was in the room. I first heard them then on the floor, as I lay reading. I said, "It's a mouse." They instantly changed their location from one part of the room to another with a rapidity that no mouse could equal. "Still, it might be more than one mouse." And then they came upon my person, distinct, clear, unequivocal. I explained it to myself by calling it a twitching of the nerves, which at times I had experienced, and so I tried to see if it was so. It was on my thigh that they came. I sat up in bed, threw off all clothing from the limb, leaving it entirely bare. I held my lighted lamp in one hand, near my leg, and sat and looked at it. I tried various experiments. I slid my left hand flat on the spot—the raps would be on my hand and cease on the leg. I laid my hand and edge-wise on the limb, and the force, whatever it was, would pass across my hand and reach the leg, making itself as perceptible on each finger as on the leg. I held my hand two or three inches from my thigh, and found they instantly stopped and resumed their work as soon as I withdrew my hand.

But I said to myself, this is some local affection, which the magnetism of my hand can reach. Immediately they ran riot all over my limbs, touching me with a distinctness and rapidity that was marvelous, running up and down both limbs from the thighs to the end of the toes, and two or three times with force enough to hurt some, as if a child had struck me with a blunted nail.

Thus they proceeded, for some half hour or more, as I thus watched, until I gave up that there was any but one hypothesis on which they could be explained, for they were intelligent, and by their changing met my mental objections, for I uttered no word aloud. I put down my lamp and lay down to sleep. They immediately left my limbs and went to other parts of my body, and I fell asleep with them gently tapping my left side.

Still there was another question: may not this be some unknown power belonging to a peculiar mortal organization and subject to its control? The answer to that was—though not the only answer—that it would often come when the medium did not will it, and as often refuse to come when it was most earnestly wanted. And it was the same with the desire of the circle. It would come when it pleased, and as it pleased, whatever it was, and not as we wished.

I have gone into this detail here, of events which were spread over several months, merely for the purpose of showing the precautions which I took and how I investigated. And I will add that, with all the other manifestations of which I shall hereafter speak—and there are very many others beside the rappings—I dealt in the same way for a period of about two years, before I yielded my belief as to their spiritual origin.

At the end of these two years, I left the country on account of my health, and spent about three months in Central America. I took with me four volumes of my manuscripts, and, having little else to do during that time, I carefully reviewed the subject. I compared the proceedings of one meeting with those of another; I hunted for discrepancies and contradictions; I was away from the excitement of the circles, and I was able to examine the subject, and I did examine it as carefully and as critically as I ever tried or doubted a case in court in my life.

I discovered a grand scheme displayed in the work—an intelligent design, persisted in amid all discouragements, and difficult—returning ever to its purpose, however diverted by obstructions at the moment, and I became a believer in the spiritual theory, a believer in a universal belief. As I said, I was a believer in it, as it does that the sun shines at noonday, and nothing short of the blindness of insanity could make me doubtful as to the light that was shining around me.

Since then, I have been a firm and unwavering believer in the idea that the spirits of the dead do and can hold communion with us. I have been sorely tried, temporally and mentally. I have been excluded from the associations which once made life pleasant to me. I have felt, in the society which I once hoped to adorn, that I was an object marked for avoidance, if not for abhorrence. Counted out and honored among men, I have been deemed to see the nearest and dearest to me turn from me with pity, if not disgust. Tolerated rather than welcomed among my fellows; at an advanced age, and with infirm health, compelled to begin the world again, and out amid what discouragements! With the subject so dear to me, and with man's folly and fraud, destined to see fools run mad with it, and rogues perverting it to nefarious purposes; meeting in its daily walks—owing to the sad imperfection of the instrumentalities used—much that was calculated to discourage and dishearten; and beholding how the world, for whom this glorious truth comes, turns from it and reviles it. I have never, for one moment, faltered from that hour in my belief. It is not my fault that I have not. It is no merit in me that I have persisted.

Belief was not, as it never is with man, matter of volition. But the evidence was so conclusive that it compelled conviction, and